

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 RSC-01 /038 W

----- 009319

R 100911Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3656

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 7297

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, TW

SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PLEA

REF: STATE 269066

1. HSIEH TSUNG-MIN WAS ARRESTED IN FEBRUARY 1971 AND HAS BEEN IMPRISONED EVER SINCE. ALTHOUGH PRECISE GROUNDS FOR HSIEH'S ARREST AND DETENTION NOT VERIFIABLE, HSIEH WAS ALLEGEDLY INDICTED AND SENTENCED FOR 1970 AND 1971 BOMBINGS OF USIS TAINAN AND BANK OF AMERICA RESPECTIVELY. HE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN ARRESTED IN 1964 AND SUBSEQUENTLY SPENT FIVE YEARS IN PRISON ON GROUNDS OF COLLABORATION WITH PENG MING-MIN AND OTHERS IN PREPARING SEDITIOUS LITERATURE.

2. EMBASSY'S ONLY SOURCE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING HSIEH'S STATE OF HEALTH IS HIS SISTER HSIEH HSIU MEI (6200/4423/5019). ON MARCH 13, 1973 MISS HSIEH REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING STATE OF HSIEH'S HEALTH. ACCORDING TO MISS HSIEH, HER BROTHER WAS NOT ALLOWED VISITORS, BUT VISITORS TO OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS HAD TOLD HER THAT HSIEH WAS QUITE ILL AND SPITTING BLOOD AND WAS PERIODICALLY TORTURED (SEE EMBASSY'S MARCH 14, 1973 MEMCON).

3. ON NOVEMBER 4, 1974 MISS HSIEH AGAIN SOUGHT EMBASSY  
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ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING STATE OF HER BROTHER'S HEALTH.

DURING THIS VISIT MISS HSIEH SAID SHE NOW IS ALLOWED TO SEE HER BROTHER ONCE A WEEK. SHE CLAIMED HE IS VERY SICK, SUFFERING FROM STOMACH AILMENT AND FREQUENT CHILLS. MISS HSIEH SAID THAT RECENT MEDICAL EXAMINATION UNDERGONE BY HSIEH REPORTEDLY SHOWED HE IS NOT ILL. HOWEVER, MISS HSIEH SAID BOTH SHE AND HER BROTHER ARE CONVINCED THAT DOCTORS NOT TELLING TRUTH BECAUSE GROG WANTS HSIEH TO DIE IN PRISON.

4. ON BOTH OCCASIONS MISS HSIEH VISITED EMBASSY SHE WAS INFORMED THAT EMBASSY COULD NOT INTERVENE WITH GROG TO DETERMINE STATE HER BROTHER'S HEALTH. WHILE MISS HSIEH'S APPROACHES TO EMBASSY WERE PROBABLY PROMPTED BY GENUINE CONCERN ABOUT HER BROTHER'S HEALTH, THEY MAY BE INTENDED TO REMIND US KOF WHAT MOST TAIWANESE OPPOSITION LEADERS CONSIDER AS CONTINUING POLICY OF HARSH SUPPRESSION BY GROG AGAINST TAIWANESE ACTIVISTS. AS MENTIONED REFTTEL, WE DO NOT PLAN QUERY GROG HSIEH'S STATUS.  
POPPL

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